

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 13, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER – 7:30 p.m.

The Board President called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Elwood Middle School Library.

Present:	James Tomeo	President
	Walter Edwards	Member
	Thomas Scarola	Member
	Dr. Sara Siddiqui	Member
Absent:	Deborah Weiss	Vice President
Staff:	Lorraine Dunkel	Assistant Superintendent/Business
	Dr. Amy Meyer	Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum
	Eileen Kelly Gorman	Assistant Superintendent/Special Education
Absent:	Dr. Gayle Steele	Superintendent of Schools
	Mary Lou Marx	District Clerk

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE– Board President

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

1. October 16, 2025 Regular Business Meeting
Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 16, 2025, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

D. EX OFFICIO STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT – Peter Bell

E. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Dr. Gayle Steele
Provided by Eileen Kelly-Gorman on Dr. Steele’s behalf.

F. RESIDENTS’ REMARKS REGARDING THE AGENDA

The Board encourages all residents to attend its meetings, and this section of the agenda affords them the opportunity to speak. Persons wishing to speak should identify themselves, state whether they are a resident of the Elwood School District and any organization they represent at the meeting. Comments related to district business or any agenda item should be kept as brief as possible and may not exceed three minutes (Board Policy 1230). Questions or comments concerning matters which are not on the agenda will be taken under consideration and may be discontinued by the President. Public discussion of matters relating to staff, students, or others at which their reputations, privacy or right to due process could be in some way be violated, is prohibited.

G. POLICIES

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Board Policy Sub-Committee, the Board of Education hereby approves the second reading and adoption of the following policies, as presented to the Board at this meeting:

0100 Non Discrimination and Equal Opportunity
0110.2 Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
0111 Sexual Harassment Grievances Under Title IX
0115 Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention
1120 School District Records Regulation
1900 Title I Parent and Family Engagement
1925 Interpreters for Hearing Impaired Parents
2260.1 Citizens Finance Committee (CFBC)
4526 Computer Use in Instruction
8636 Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to accept the policies for adoption, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

H. PRESENTATIONS

1. Elwood's New Website Ribbon Cutting – Christopher Onorato, Director of Instructional and Information Technology
2. Data Presentation – Dr. Amy Meyer, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

I. BOARD RECOGNITION OF DONATION

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the following donations with gratitude:
 1. \$3,660 from the Elwood Booster Club to support the following after school clubs for the 2025 Early Fall Season:
 - *Boyd Coding Club (4 weeks - 1 session \$320)
 - *Boyd Video Gaming Club (5 weeks - 1 session \$400)
 - *Boyd Yoga and Mindfulness Club (5 weeks - 1 session \$400)
 - *Boyd Yoga and Mindfulness Club (5 weeks - 1 session TA \$100)
 - *Boyd Sweets & Treats Club (4 weeks - 1 session \$320)
 - *Boyd Sweets & Treats Club (4 weeks - 1 session TA \$80)
 - *Harley Art Club (5 weeks - 2 sessions \$800)
 - *Harley Art Club (5 weeks - 2 sessions TA \$200)
 - *Harley Coding Club (5 weeks - 1 session \$400)
 - *Harley Sweets & Treats Club (4 weeks - 1 session, 2 teachers \$640)
 2. Three (3) library books from the Elwood Middle School PTA for the EMS library, valued at \$43.47:
 - *Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney
 - *War Games by Alan Gratz
 - *Refugee by Alan Gratz
 3. \$5,000 from the Elwood Athletic Club to support the Elwood athletics.

Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve Item I.1, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

J. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

1. Mr. Edwards moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items K.1, L.1-L.14, M.1-M.6, N.1-N.3), as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

K. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby acknowledges receipt for audit of the following reports:
 - a) Treasurer's Report for September, 2025
 - b) Revenue Status Report through September, 2025
 - c) Cash Flow Report for September, 2025
 - d) Budget Status Report through September, 2025
 - e) Trial Balance Report through September, 2025
 - f) Executive Summary for September, 2025
 - g) Budget Transfer Report through September, 2025
 - h) School Lunch Fund Report through September, 2025
 - i) Claims Auditor Reports for August & September, 2025
 - j) ExtraClassroom Activity Fund Reports for JGHS & EMS through September, 2025

L. ACTION ITEMS PERSONNEL

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Martha Hanley for the purpose of retirement, from her position as Microcomputer Repair Technician, effective April 24, 2026.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Melanie Spooner for the purpose of retirement, from her position as a Cook, effective December 19, 2025.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Stephanie West for the purpose of retirement, from her position as Senior Office Assistant, effective January 23, 2026.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Kerri Baggetta, from her position as a Paraprofessional, effective November 16, 2025.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Nicole Mesloh, possessing Students with Disabilities All Grades, Early Childhood Education B-2 and Childhood Education 1-6 Certificates , to a four-year probationary term as a Special Education Teacher, in the Special Education tenure area, effective November 17, 2025 through November 16, 2029 at a salary of \$69,650, prorated (MA, Step 2). In order to be eligible for appointment to tenure, said teacher must have at least three years of effective or highly effective APPR ratings pursuant to Education Law Section 3012-d during the four year period prior to the proposed effective date of tenure and may not receive a rating of ineffective during the final year of probation.
6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Kerry Baggetta as an Office Assistant (12 month), in the competitive class of the civil service, to serve a twenty-six week probationary term, effective November 17, 2025, at a salary of \$41,549 (Step 1, pro-rated, as per the terms of the collective bargaining agreement).
7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Melissa Ford from a part-time Paraprofessional (5.75 hours/day)

to a full-time Paraprofessional (7.5 hours/day), in the non-competitive class of the civil service, commencing November 14, 2025, with compensation of \$26,693.10 (Step 7, prorated).

8. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the increased daily hours for Ashley Weiner as a paraprofessional, from 2.5 hours per day to 4.0 hours per day, with compensation at her 2025-2026 hourly rate, effective November 17, 2025.

9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following Elwood-John H. Glenn High School Co-Curricular Advisor to the corresponding club/activity for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting:

Musical Pit Director - Emily Dana (Stipend \$1,916)

Muslim Cultural Association - Richard Greening (Stipend \$1,614)

Natural Helper/Sources of Strength Mental Health Advisor (Stipend \$1,614)

10. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as the advisors to the corresponding after-school Booster Club sessions:

Advisor	Club	# of Sessions	Rate per Session	Period
Cheri Murcott	Harley Sweets & Treats	4	\$80	September-November, 2025
Leslie Seilback	Harley Sweets & Treats	5	\$80	November-December, 2025
Cheri Murcott	Harley Sweets & Treats	5	\$80	November-December, 2025
Cheri Murcott	Harley Computer Coding	4	\$80	November-December, 2025
Nicole Franz	Harley Art	8	\$80	November-December, 2025

11. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves after-school hours for the following teachers, to participate in curriculum writing projects for aligning the curricula of two courses, during the 2025-2026 school year, effective November 14, 2025, with compensation of \$66 per hour:

<u>School</u>	<u>Teacher Participants</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Maximum Hours per Teacher</u>
JGHS	Diane Locascio Ilene Fucci	Child Development (FACS) AP Psychology	2.0 Hours

12. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves after-school hours for the following teachers, to participate in curriculum writing projects and lead after-school tutoring sessions for the upcoming January English Language Arts Regents exam, during the 2025-2026 school year, effective November 14, 2025, with compensation of \$66 per hour:

<u>School</u>	<u>Teacher Participants</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Maximum Hours per Teacher</u>
JGHS	Garrett Chesnoff Jessica Kennedy Cassandra Pitochi	NYS Regents Review for January 20, 2026 Regents Exam	4.5 Hours
EMS	Valentina Fucella Scott Mikelbank Alexandra Kapuscinski	EMS Parent Curriculum Guides	10 Hours
EMS	Jenine Harris	EMS Parent	3 Hours

		Curriculum Guides	
DO	Michelle Kretz	Curriculum Writing for SCD Professional Learning	1.5 Hours

13. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the additional Substitute, for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
14. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves hours for the following certificated staff members, to participate in Parent University training, with compensation of \$66 per hour, not to exceed two and one-half hours per session:

Staff Member
Carolyn Goudreau
Dylan Kilkenny
Martine Pirolo
Kristen Romanchuk
Joanna Sepp
Jessica Shea
Alexandria Simone

M. ACTION ITEMS - BUSINESS

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute the Special Education Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting (SEDCAR) Agreements for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting, and said Agreements will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting:
Alternatives for Children
Brookville Center for Children's Services
Building Blocks Developmental Preschool
Developmental Disabilities Institute
Green Chimneys School
Kids First Evaluation & Advocacy Center, Inc.
Martin De Porres School for Exceptional Children
NY Therapy
Mid Island Therapy dba All About Kids
The Hagedorn Little Village School
The New Interdisciplinary School (NIS)
United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Suffolk
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute a Consultant Service Contract with Ramirez Consulting Corp. and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing professional development services to the District, for the 2025-2026 school year, and said Contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute a Consultant Service Contract

with Marilynn Elie and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing professional development services to the District, for the 2025-2026 school year, and said Contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board of Education President to sign and execute an Agreement with the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District to provide special education services for student(s) who reside in the Elwood Union Free School District, "Action Cost of Services" may be charged in accordance with the Education Law and Regulations of the Commissioner of Education as approved by New York State, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 inclusive, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby declares the following items as surplus and obsolete as they are beyond repair or outdated and allow for their appropriate removal:
(1) fax machine (Boyd)
(86) 2011 MacMillan/McGraw-Hill Science - A Closer Look (Boyd)
(1) 2011 MacMillan/McGraw Hill - A closer Look Life Science Teachers Edition (Boyd)
6. BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the Muslim Cultural Association Club Charter, as presented at this meeting, and authorizes the Board President to execute the Charter on behalf of the Board.

N. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the 2026-2027 School Budget Development & Annual Meeting Calendar, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the amended period of the overnight field trip to Orlando, Florida for the Elwood-John H. Glenn High School Kickline, which was previously approved on July 28, 2025 for February 13-16, 2026 and recently revised to February 13-17, 2026.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Committee and Subcommittee on Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 9/22/25, 10/1/25, 10/6/25, 10/8/25, 10/10/25, 10/14/25, 10/15/25, 10/16/25, 10/24/25, 10/28/25, 10/30/25 and 11/3/25, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 10/8/25, 10/9/25 and 10/29/25 for students' classifications/placements and/or discontinuance of services.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes and appropriates the use of District funds necessary to implement the special education programs and services consistent with said recommendations.

O. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA - None

P. RESIDENTS' REMARKS REGARDING MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE DISTRICT

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Q. ADJOURNMENT – 8:44 p.m.

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Dunkel
Alternate District Clerk